10: Marshall M-5 (ca. 1910) 1945 AP1 Burma
Karen AP7

177 With the coming of machinery the Karens have taken
463 to mechanics. In the machine shops, foundries and work-
401 shops of the big companies, and in the oil fields they have played their part. They have also done well as motor-car mechanics and drivers as well as in electrical engineering. In mining they have done their share, although for very difficult underground tunnelling I believe they have not been found as daring as the Gurkhas of Nepal.

V

RELIGION

776 Primitive Karens are animists, worshipping the
782 spirits with which their imaginations people the phenomena of nature, the hills, the streams, and any unusual
[822] happenings which they see around them. The changes of season are due to conflict between the demons (often called by their Burmese name *nats*) of the dry weather and the wet. Those are victorious whose season is prevailing at the time. The banyan is supposed to be the abode of a very vigorous spirit, probably because the seeds of that tree spring up in all kinds of unsuspected places.

In addition to the spirits of the wood and mountain there are the family Penates called the *Bgha* that, when offended, cause illness by eating the *Kala* (psyche) of the person and ultimately cause his death if allowed to go on. They must be appeased by offerings of chicken or pig. Every member of the family must be present on the occasion to save one member from illness. It is hoped that the feast will be so tempting that the demon will leave the sufferer and take the food instead. The customs connected with these feasts differ in various localities and